

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04942 041537Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 084098

R 041401Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7569

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4942

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA DISPUTES U.S. PRESS NEGATIVISM ON KISSINGER VISIT

1. SUMMARY: IN BELATED REPLAY OF U.S. REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT, PRAVDA CHIDES U.S. PRESS FOR SPREADING "DISINFORMATION" ALLEGING FAILURE OF VISIT. PRAVDA REITERATES PREFERRED SOVIET VIEW THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT CONTRIBUTED TO U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS AND REPRESENTED IMPORTANT PART OF CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA APRIL 4 CARRIES DISPATCH FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STRELNIKOV SUMMARIZING U.S. PUBLIC REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT. ALTHOUGH WESTERN NEWSMAN HAD BEEN TOLD AS EARLY AS MARCH 29 BY PRAVDA'S U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04942 041537Z

DESK CHIEF THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A WRAP-UP, STORY

HAS TAKEN UNUSUALLY LONG TIME TO GERMINATE - EVIDENTLY BECAUSE MOST WESTERN PRESS POSTS MORTEMES WERE TOO GLOOMY FOR MOSCOW. STRELNIKOV GOES SO FAR AS TO ACCUSE U.S. MASS MEDIA (SPECIFICALLY SINGLING OUT NY TIMES AND WASHPOST) OF SPREADING DISINFORMATION ABOUT ALLEGED FAILURE OF KISSINGER MISSION OWING TO KREMLIN OBSTINACY.

2. STRELNIKOV REPORTS THAT DISINFORMATION CONTINUES DESPITE SECRETARY'S COMMENT AT DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT STATEMENT THAT MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. STRELNIKOV ALSO CITES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S SURPRISE AT UNUSUAL CONCENTRATION OF PESSIMISM IN U.S. PRESS ABOUT VISIT, WHICH SPOKESMAN SAID WAS UNJUSTIFIED. ASKING RHETORICALLY WHERE THIS PESSIMISM ORIGINATES, STRELNIKOV PUTS THE BLAME ON A MOTLEY COALITION OF MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, ULTRA-RIGHTIST ORGANIZATIONS AND ZIONIST CIRCLES TOGETHER WITH THEIR AGENTS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS.

3. PRAVDA FINDS IN CPUSA ORGAN DAILY WORLD AN ASSESSMENT OF VISIT MORE COMPATIBLE WITH SOVIET VIEWS. ASSAILING DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT PREPARATIONS FOR 1974 SUMMIT AND THE SUMMIT ITSELF, DAILY WORLD REPORTEDLY SAYS PRESS PESSIMISM DOES NOT REFLECT ACTUAL STATE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS NOR DOES IT REFLECT VIEWS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE.

4. APART FROM REBUKING U.S. PRESS, PRAVDA DISPATCH EMPHASIZES FACT THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS PART OF CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO THE USSR, FOLLOWING PAST PRACTICE OF CLOSE CONSULTATIONS INCLUDING KISSINGER VISITS BEFORE 1972 AND 1973 SUMMITS. QUOTING FROM NEW YORK TIMES (ELSEWHERE IN ARTICLE LABELED AN OFFENDER IN SOWING PESSIMISM), STRELNIKOV NOTES THAT TWO SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS AND THAT SOVIET LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT FURTHER U.S. -SOVIET COOPERATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04942 041537Z

5. COMMENT: CARPING AT WESTERN PRESS TREATMENT OF SOVIET THEMES STARTS WITH BREZHNEV HIMSELF (E.G., HIS COMMENTS TO FRENCH JOURNALISTS LAST MONTH) AND IS GROWING. (IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR BOVIN MARCH 29 ALSO LIT OUT AFTER WESTERN PRESS FOR PESSIMISM ON KISSINGER VISIT.) PART OF THE PROBLEM IS, OF COURSE, SOVIET CONVICTION THAT PRESS SHOULD FOLLOW THE OFFICIAL LINE. STRELNIKOV PUTS THIS SUCCINCTLY: "ROLE OF MASS INFORMATION ORGANS

CONSISTS OF SUPPORTING POSITIVE TENDENCIES OR, AT ANY
RATE, REFRAINING FROM HINDERING THE STRENGTHENING OF
MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES."
STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, THE PRESS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW04942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0605
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740467/aaaacjqm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA DISPUTES U.S. PRESS NEGATIVISM ON KISSINGER VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005